

Statistics Weekly

Thursday, 24 December 1992

The week in statistics ...

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This is the last *Statistics Weekly* to be released in 1992. The first issue for 1993 will be on Thursday 7 January.

Seasons Greetings and Best Wishes for 1993

IAN CASTLES
Australian Statistician

Manufacturing prices in October

The price index of articles produced by the manufacturing industry rose 0.1 per cent between September and October 1992, while the price index of materials used in manufacturing industries increased by 0.7 per cent over the same period. Details of movements in the two price indexes are given below.

Little movement in prices of manufactured goods

The increase was mainly due to small increases in prices for a wide range of items; the only individual increase of significance was for refined petroleum products.

These increases in prices were partially offset by small price decreases for about a third of the items in the index. The only significant decrease recorded was for refined silver, lead and zinc.

The All Manufacturing Industry Index rose by 2.6 per cent between October 1991 and October 1992.

Variations in the rate of price change for different sectors of manufacturing are shown below.

PRICES OF MANUFACTURED GOODS, OCTOBER 1992
Percentage change

Manufacturing sector	From previous month	From corresponding month of previous year
Petroleum products	1.1	8.4
Food and beverages	0.1	3.6
Transport equipment	0.1	2.9
Basic metal products	-0.6	2.8
Other industrial machinery	0.2	1.7
Chemical products	0.5	1.2
Clothing and footwear	0.1	0.9
Fabricated metal products	-0.2	0.1
Total manufacturing	0.1	2.6

Manufacturing materials prices turn up again

Imported materials prices increased by 0.5 per cent while prices for home produced materials increased by 0.8 per cent.

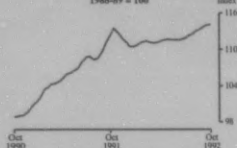
The main contributors to the October increase in imported materials prices were components for machinery and equipment, and crude petroleum and condensates, partly offset by lower prices for chemicals and chemical based materials.

The increase in prices of home produced materials resulted mainly from higher prices for sheep and lambs.

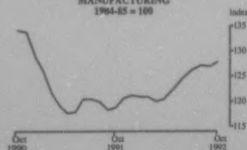
The rise in October followed a September interruption to the recent increases in manufacturers' materials costs through most of calendar 1992. Over the year to October, prices of manufacturing materials increased by 7.7 per cent, the largest annual increase since December 1990.

Continued ...

PRICES OF MANUFACTURED GOODS
1988-89 = 100



PRICES OF MATERIALS USED IN
MANUFACTURING
1984-85 = 100



The table below summarises the price movements of imported and home produced materials.

PRICES OF MATERIALS USED IN MANUFACTURING
OCTOBER 1992
Percentage change

Source of material	From previous month	From corresponding month of previous year
Imported	0.5	7.1
Home produced	0.8	7.9
All manufacturing	0.7	7.7

For further information, order the publications *Price Indexes of Materials Used in Manufacturing Industries, Australia (6411.0)* and *Price Indexes of Articles Produced by Manufacturing Industry, Australia (6412.0)*, or contact Geoff Brown on (06) 252 5348 or Peter Cordy on (06) 252 5541.

Export prices keep on rising

Export prices rose by 0.5 per cent between September and October 1992, the fifth consecutive monthly increase. A general factor contributing to the increase was the fall in the value of the Australian dollar against the US dollar and the Japanese Yen.

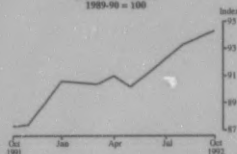
Price increases were recorded for about half of the items in the index. The main contributors to the increase were wheat, coal and refined petroleum products. These increases were partially offset by small price falls for about a third of the items in the index. The only significant decreases recorded were for aluminium and zinc ores.

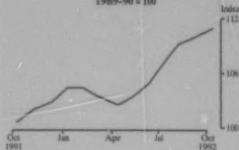
On an annual basis, export prices rose by 8.0 per cent between October 1991 and October 1992. This is the largest annual increase recorded since January 1990.

EXPORT PRICES, OCTOBER 1992
Percentage change

Commodity	From previous month	From corresponding month of previous year
Vegetable products	2.7	21.8
Live animals and animal products	-0.4	9.4
Mineral products	1.4	8.8
Base metals	-2.1	8.1
Gold, diamonds and coin	1.0	7.0
Motor vehicles, aircraft and vessels	0.7	5.1
Prepared food stuffs	-2.0	5.0
Wool and cotton fibres	0.9	4.7
Machinery and appliances	-0.7	3.9
Products of chemical or allied industries	1.0	-0.6
All exports	0.5	8.0

EXPORT PRICES
1989-90 = 100



IMPORT PRICES
1989-90 = 100

Further increase in import prices

The Import Price Index rose by 0.8 per cent in October 1992.

The main contributors to the October price rise were petroleum, petroleum products and related materials, organic chemicals and road vehicles.

Between October 1991 and October 1992 the index increased by 10.2 per cent.

IMPORT PRICES, OCTOBER 1992

Percentage change

Selected groups of items	From previous month	From corresponding month of previous year
Animal and vegetable oils, etc.	-2.3	21.1
Machinery and transport equipment	1.1	12.8
Miscellaneous manufactured articles	0.1	11.0
Crude materials	0.5	9.3
Food and live animals	0.6	8.9
Mineral fuels, lubricants and other related materials	2.5	7.8
Commodities and transactions	0.9	6.7
Chemical products	0.0	6.6
All items	0.8	10.2

For further information, order the publication Import Price Index, Australia (6414.0), or contact Geoff Brown on (06) 252 5348.

Home lending up again but the trend is slowing

The provisional trend estimate for the number of dwelling units financed for owner occupation in October 1992 increased by 1.1 per cent over the September 1992 estimate; this was also 27.2 per cent above the estimate for October 1991. While the trend upwards, which began in December 1991 has continued, there has been a gradual slowing in the rate of increase since April 1992.

The overall increase in the trend estimate for October was not general across the various types of lending institutions. Trend estimates for permanent building societies and 'other lenders' actually decreased in October — the former by 6.8 per cent and the latter by 3.1 per cent. Increased lending by banks however, more than offset these decreases.

The October trend estimate for purchase of newly erected dwellings continued the gradual decline which began in June 1992 and was 1.5 per cent below the September estimate.

On the other hand, the estimates for both construction of dwellings and purchase of established dwellings continued to trend upwards — the former showing an increase for the twelfth successive month and the latter for the eleventh successive month.

Continued ...

HOUSING FINANCE COMMITMENTS
By all lenders

The seasonally adjusted estimate for the number of dwelling units financed in October 1992 increased by 4.8 per cent over September. By way of contrast, the corresponding original figures recorded a decrease of 9.4 per cent.

HOME FINANCE COMMITMENTS, OCTOBER 1992

Value of commitments

	Established dwellings	Construction of dwellings	Purchase of newly erected dwellings	Total
% change from September 1992				
Trend	2.2	2.4	-2.6	2.0
Seasonally adjusted	3.0	9.8	2.6	4.2
Unadjusted	-9.5	-8.7	-0.3	-8.9
% change from October 1991				
Trend	40.0	44.5	21.1	39.7
Seasonally adjusted	44.5	55.5	27.5	45.5
Unadjusted	26.0	34.3	16.5	26.8

For further information, order the publication *Housing Finance for Owner Occupation, Australia* (5609.0), or contact John Carson on (06) 252 7110 or Harry Wilson on (06) 252 6170.

Established house prices remain flat

The price index of established houses in Australia rose 0.1 per cent between the June and September quarters 1992. A fall in Sydney (2.0%) largely offset rises in the other capital cities, ranging from 0.5 per cent in Adelaide to 5.2 per cent in Darwin.

In the year to September quarter 1992, the index fell 0.2 per cent due to negative annual movements in Sydney (0.7%) and Melbourne (6.9%). All other cities showed increases ranging from 2.8 per cent in Hobart to 13.1 per cent in Darwin. Project home prices increased by 0.5 per cent between the June and September quarters 1992. All cities except Melbourne (down 0.7%) showed rises which ranged between 0.3 per cent in Sydney and 2.3 per cent in Brisbane.

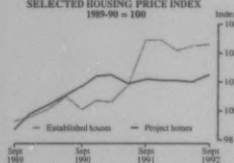
HOUSING PRICES, SEPTEMBER QUARTER 1992

Percentage change

	Established houses		Project homes	
	From previous quarter	From corresponding quarter of previous year	From previous quarter	From corresponding quarter of previous year
Sydney	-2.0	-0.7	0.3	-0.6
Melbourne	0.9	-6.9	-0.7	-1.8
Brisbane	2.1	3.4	2.3	3.1
Adelaide	0.5	2.9	0.7	-0.2
Perth	1.9	3.0	0.6	1.3
Hobart	2.3	2.8	0.4	3.1
Darwin	5.2	13.1	0.8	2.2
Canberra	3.7	10.4	1.6	10.2
Weighted average of eight capital cities	0.1	-0.2	0.5	0.3

For further information, order the publication *House Price Indexes: Eight Capital Cities* (6416.0), or contact Ian Buchanan on (06) 252 5754.

SELECTED HOUSING PRICE INDEX
1989-90 = 100



More unemployed prepared to move to obtain a job

In July 1992, a greater proportion of people were prepared to move either interstate or intrastate, if they were offered a suitable job, than recorded at any time in the last 10 years.

Almost one-third (32%) of the 900,000 unemployed persons (excluding the small number who were 'stood down') would move interstate if offered a suitable job. A further 55 per cent would not move, and the remainder were unsure about moving. Some 45 per cent of unemployed persons would move to a different part of their State while 40 per cent were not prepared to move intrastate. By comparison, in June 1991, 29 per cent of unemployed persons were prepared to move interstate, while 43 per cent would have moved intrastate.

MAIN DIFFICULTIES IN FINDING WORK, JULY 1992
Per cent

	Age group						Total
	15 to 19	20 to 24	25 to 34	35 to 44	45 to 54	Over 55	
No vacancies at all	38.5	31.9	31.9	33.6	27.2	18.8	31.9
No vacancies in line of work	7.8	15.0	21.2	22.0	21.0	14.8	17.1
Considered too young or too old by employers	9.5	8.1	4.4	10.7	30.5	53.8	13.8
Lacked necessary skills/education	13.9	14.6	9.5	6.4	3.5	1.4	9.5
Insufficient work experience	13.8	13.7	6.9	5.0	0.5	0.0	8.0
Own ill health or injury	1.6	3.1	4.5	5.4	6.5	6.8	4.2
Too far to travel/transport problems	5.2	4.5	5.8	2.4	0.8	0.5	3.9
Language difficulties	0.2	0.7	4.4	4.0	3.6	2.9	2.6
Other difficulties	4.3	6.3	8.3	7.4	2.9	0.0	5.8
No difficulties reported	5.2	2.0	3.0	3.1	3.5	1.1	3.2
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0

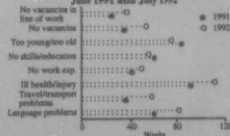
'No vacancies' was reported as the most common difficulty in finding work by all age groups, except those aged 55 and over. For persons aged less than 55 years, 'no vacancies' accounted for approximately half of the reported difficulties in each age group, ranging from 46 per cent of those aged 15-19 to 56 per cent of those aged 35-44. For persons aged 55 and over, the main difficulty was 'considered too young or too old by employers' (54%), followed by 'no vacancies' (34%). Only 3 per cent of persons reported that they had no difficulties in finding work, although more younger persons reported 'no difficulties' (5% of those aged 15-19 compared with 1% of those aged 55 and over).

In July 1992, the average duration of unemployment was 55 weeks, an increase of 11 weeks since June 1991. The average duration of unemployment varied according to the main difficulty in finding work and educational attainment.

The main difficulty in finding work with the longest average duration of unemployment was for 'own ill health or disability' — 111 weeks, while the difficulty with the shortest average duration was 'no vacancies in line of work' — 38 weeks.

Continued ...

AVERAGE DURATION OF UNEMPLOYMENT
By selected main difficulties in finding work
June 1991 and July 1992



Persons without post-school qualifications had been unemployed for 8 weeks more on average than those with post-school qualifications (59 weeks compared with 51 weeks). Unemployed persons who did not attend the highest level of secondary school available had an average duration of unemployment of 64 weeks.

As at July 1992, there were 331,300 persons whose current period of unemployment was one year or more. For this group, who represented 37 per cent of total unemployed, the most common reported difficulties in finding work were 'no vacancies either in line of work or at all' and 'considered too young or too old by employers'.

For further information, order the publication *Job Search Experience of Unemployed Persons, Australia* (6222.0), or contact Mark Patton on (06) 252 7204.

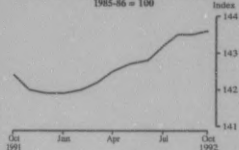
Small rise in building material prices

Prices of building materials recorded small increases in October 1992. For materials used in house building, prices increased 0.1 per cent while prices of materials used in other forms of building increased by 0.2 per cent.

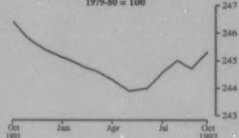
The main price movement for house building was for ready mixed concrete (1.2%). For materials used in other forms of building the main price movements were for air conditioning equipment (1.6%) and ready mixed concrete (0.7%).

The October 1992 prices of materials used in house building were 0.8 per cent higher than in October 1991. Prices of materials used in other forms of building were 0.4 per cent lower in October 1992 than in October 1991.

PRICES OF HOUSE BUILDING MATERIALS
1985-86 = 100



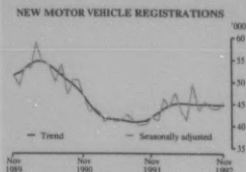
PRICES OF NON-DWELLING
BUILDING MATERIALS
1979-80 = 100



PRICES OF BUILDING MATERIALS, OCTOBER, 1992
Percentage change

City	House building		Other than house building	
	From previous month	From corresponding month of previous year	From previous month	From corresponding month of previous year
Sydney	0.0	0.4	0.4	-1.0
Melbourne	0.3	1.2	0.2	-0.7
Brisbane	0.0	2.2	0.4	1.4
Adelaide	-0.1	-1.0	0.1	-1.4
Perth	-0.1	0.6	0.0	0.5
Hobart	0.1	2.4	0.2	1.4
Weighted average of six State capitals	0.1	0.8	0.2	-0.4
Darwin	— Not available —		-0.2	1.0
Canberra	0.1	1.2	0.1	-0.3

For further information, order the publications *Price Index of Materials Used in House Building, Six State Capital Cities and Canberra* (6408.0) and *Price Index of Materials Used in Building Other Than House Building, Eight Capital Cities* (6407.0), or contact Mark Dickson (06) 252 6198.



New vehicle registrations refuse to budge

The November 1992 trend estimate for total new motor vehicle registrations showed no change from October. The trend continued to be flat with all month to month movements since February 1992 being less than 1.0 per cent.

In seasonally adjusted terms, total new motor vehicle registrations rose 4.1 per cent compared with October 1992.

In original terms, total new motor vehicle registrations for November 1992 rose by 0.3 per cent, from 44,440 vehicles in October to 44,553 in November.

Numbers of passenger vehicles fell from 37,115 in October to 36,809 in November 1992; other vehicles showed an increase, from 7,325 vehicles in October to 7,744 vehicles in November.

Unadjusted registrations fell in Tasmania and Victoria (24.1% and 15.1% respectively) while New South Wales (16.1%), the Australian Capital Territory (15.2%) and Queensland (3.7%) recorded increases during the month.

For further information, order the publication *Registrations of New Motor Vehicles, Australia, Preliminary (9301.0)*, or contact Kevin Yeaton on (06) 252 6255.

New base year for constant price ABS statistics

In an information paper released recently, the Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) explains the background to the change in the base year of constant price estimates from 1984-85 to 1989-90.

The first constant price estimates at average 1989-90 prices will be national accounts aggregates up to September quarter 1992. They will appear in another information paper to be released on 25 February 1993. Thereafter, all published ABS constant price estimates will be at average 1989-90 prices.

The first information paper explains:

- ☐ what constant price estimates are;
- ☐ how they are calculated;
- ☐ the reasons for and benefits of, changing the base period;
- ☐ why the base year is being changed now;
- ☐ the effects of rebasing constant price estimates; and
- ☐ how for some applications, such as econometric modelling, long continuous time series at constant prices are compiled by splicing figures relating to earlier base years.

Continued ...

The information paper also notes that the rebase will not affect most estimates expressed in current price terms and will have no impact on current price estimates in statistical series such as exports and imports of goods and the balance of payments current account.

For further information, order the information paper *Change in Base Year of Constant Price Estimates from 1984-85 to 1989-90* (5227.0), or contact Charles Aspdon on (06) 252 6711.

June quarter financial accounts

The ABS has released the third quarterly edition of *Australian National Accounts: Financial Accounts* (5233.0) for June quarter 1992. The publication presents levels of financial assets and liabilities across the domestic economy, and the associated transactions.

The table below shows the liabilities of the domestic sectors (excluding financial institutions) that are in the form of 'conventional' debt and equity (shareholders' funds). Conventional debt is all debt except sundry claims such as accounts payable and accrued liabilities.

Conventional debt of the non-financial sectors continued to show increases in levels, from \$571 billion (\$571,000 million) in June 1991 to \$588 billion in June 1992. The private sector accounted for \$419 billion in June 1991 and \$417 billion in June 1992, while the public sector owed \$152 billion in June 1991 and \$171 billion in June 1992.

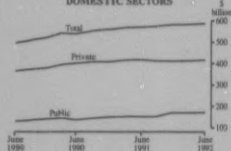
DEBT AND EQUITY OUTSTANDINGS NON-FINANCIAL DOMESTIC SECTORS \$ billion

	Amounts outstanding at end of June quarter			
	1988-89	1989-90	1990-91	1991-92
Debt and equity outstandings of the non-financial domestic sectors	675.7	723.5	757.2	795.6
Less equity outstandings	179.0	183.1	186.2	207.4
Debt outstandings of the non-financial domestic sectors	496.7	540.4	571.0	588.2
Liabilities of				
Commonwealth public trading enterprises	10.6	13.9	17.1	15.7
State and local public trading enterprises	14.2	14.5	14.4	13.8
Commonwealth general government	56.9	49.6	49.4	58.7
State and local general government	49.3	59.2	71.1	83.0
Total public non-financial sector debt	131.0	137.2	152.0	171.2
Private corporate trading enterprises	208.1	226.4	233.7	222.0
Households and unincorporated businesses	157.6	176.6	185.5	195.0
Total private non-financial sector debt	365.7	403.0	419.2	417.0

The publication provides further dissections of this information. For example it shows the amount of debt owed by each individual sector broken down according to the sectors to which the debt is owed. It also shows the distribution of debt according to the various type of financial instruments (e.g. loans, short-term debt etc.) involved.

For further information, order the publication *Australian National Accounts: Financial Accounts* (5232.0), or contact Derick Cullen on (06) 252 6244.

DEBT OF THE NON-FINANCIAL DOMESTIC SECTORS



Inquiries

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All the week's releases:

16 to 22 December

General

Monthly Summary of Statistics, Aust., December 1992 (1304.0; \$20.00)
Statistics Weekly, 17 December 1992 (1318.0; \$4.20)
Housing, Aust., 1992 (1320.0; \$25.00) — *new issue*
Time Series Service — Manual (available on magnetic tape and microfiche only, choice of priced packages), September Qtr 1992 (1336.0; free)
Economic Indicators, Qld, December 1992 (1307.3; \$6.50)
Queensland at a Glance, 1993 (1312.3; free)
Economic Indicators, WA, December 1992 (1307.5; \$5.00)
Northern Territory Business Indicators, December 1992 (1307.7; \$5.00)
Canberra Statistical Area Summary, 1992 (1313.8; \$10.50)

Census of Population and Housing

1991 Census — Hobart Suburbs, (2791.6; \$15.00) — *new issue*

Demography

Overseas Arrivals and Departures, Aust., October 1992 (3401.0; \$6.50)
Overseas Arrivals and Departures, Aust., September Qtr 1992 (3402.0; \$14.00)
Demography, Vic., 1991 (3311.2; \$27.00)

Social statistics

Crime Victims, WA, October 1991 (4506.5; \$15.00) — *new issue*
Hospital Statistics, SA, 1991 (4308.4; \$21.00)

National accounts, finance and foreign trade

Housing Finance for Owner Occupation, Aust., October 1992 (5609.0; \$10.50)
Personal Finance, Aust., October 1992 (5642.0; \$6.00)
Commercial Finance, Aust., October 1992 (5643.0; \$6.00)
Lease Finance, Aust., October 1992 (5644.0; \$6.00)
Assets of Superannuation Funds and Approved Deposit Funds, September Qtr 1992 (5656.0; \$10.50)
Assets and Liabilities of Friendly Societies, Aust., September Qtr 1992 (5660.0; \$10.50)
Local Government Finance, NSW, 1991 (5502.1; \$21.40)

Labour statistics and prices

Successful and Unsuccessful Job Search Experience, Aust., July 1992 (6245.0; \$12.50)
Employed Wage and Salary Earners, Aust., June Qtr 1992 (6248.0; \$16.00)
Industrial Disputes, Aust., September 1992 (6321.0; \$10.00)
Export Price Index, Aust., October 1992 (6405.0; \$8.00)
Price Index of Materials Used in Building Other Than House Building, Eight Capital Cities, October 1992 (6407.0; \$10.50)
Price Index of Materials Used in House Building, Six State Capital Cities and Canberra, October 1992 (6408.0; \$8.00)
Price Indexes of Materials Used in Manufacturing Industries, Aust., October 1992 (6411.0; \$10.50)
Price Indexes of Articles Produced by Manufacturing Industry, Aust., October 1992 (6412.0; \$10.50)
Import Price Index, Aust., October 1992 (6414.0; \$8.00)
House Price Indexes: Eight Capital Cities, September Qtr 1992 (6416.0; \$27.00)
Employment Injuries, Qld, 1990-91 (6301.3; \$15.00)

Agriculture

Agriculture Statistics — Selected Small Area Data, WA, 1990-91 Season (7120.5; \$16.00)

Manufacturing, Mining, Energy, Service Industries, Building and Construction

Manufacturing Production, Aust.: Building Materials and Fittings, October 1992 (8361.0; \$8.00)
Manufacturing Production, Aust.: Plastics, Rubber, Paints, Detergents and Industrial Chemicals, October 1992 (8362.0; \$8.00)

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Suggestions

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Editor
Statistics Weekly
(06) 252 6104

- Manufacturing Production, Aust.: Transport Equipment, October 1992 (8363.0; \$6.00)
- Manufacturing Production, Aust.: Metal Products, October 1992 (8367.0; \$6.00)
- Manufacturing Production, Aust.: Energy Products, October 1992 (8368.0; \$6.00)
- Actual and Expected Private Mineral Exploration, Aust., September 1992 (8412.0; \$10.00)
- Engineering Construction Activity, Aust., September Qtr 1992 (8762.0; \$10.50)
- Dwelling Unit Commencements Reported by Approving Authorities, NSW, July 1992 (8741.1; \$10.50)
- Dwelling Unit Commencements Reported by Approving Authorities, Qld, July 1992 (8741.3; \$10.50)
- Dwelling Unit Commencements Reported by Approving Authorities, WA, October 1992 (8741.5; \$10.50)
- Building Approvals, SA, November 1992 (8731.4; \$10.50)
- Forest Products, Tas., September Qtr 1992 (8203.6; \$5.00)
- Transport**
- Registrations of New Motor Vehicles, Aust., November 1992, Preliminary (9301.0; \$10.50)
- Motor Vehicle Registrations, Aust., October 1992 (9303.0; \$10.50)

Calendar of key releases

Expected releases over the fortnight to 5 January

December

- 23** Manufacturing Production, Australia, November 1992
Preliminary (8301.0; \$10.50)

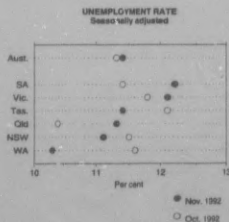
January

- 5** Balance of Payments, Australia, November 1992 (5301.0; \$16.00)

The latest ...

Changes to key State indicators — consolidated to

22 December 1992



Statistics Weekly
24 December 1992

	NSW	Vic.	Qld	SA	WA	Tas.	NT	ACT	Aust.
— Percentage change from same period previous year —									
New capital expenditure (Mar. qtr 92) [*]	-33.1	-21.8	-18.4	-24.7	-1.5	5.7	n.a.	n.a.	-22.8
Retail turnover (Oct. 92) (trend estimate)	2.4	2.9	7.4	-1.9	9.4	6.1	n.a.	5.6	4.0
New motor vehicle registrations (Nov. 92) [†]	4.1	9.0	22.1	1.6	5.1	-4.7	38.6	5.0	8.8
Number of dwelling unit approvals (Oct. 92) [*]	15.2	8.0	7.5	13.1	50.5	6.3	-13.1	-22.2	16.2
Value of total building work done (June qtr 92)	-18.2	-7.1	6.2	-12.9	-5.8	19.5	-10.3	3.9	-8.8
Employed persons (Nov. 92) [*]	-2.1	-0.5	2.5	0.7	0.8	-0.2	-0.5	4.5	-0.2
Capital city consumer price index (Sept. qtr 92) (Aug. 92)	0.8	0.3	0.8	1.9	-0.2	0.8	1.9	1.5	0.8
Average weekly earnings (full-time adult ordinary time)	2.6	3.8	2.5	5.8	2.2	2.6	5.0	5.1	3.2
Population (June 92)	1.2	1.0	2.4	0.9	1.6	0.9	1.2	2.3	1.4
Room nights in licensed hotels and motels, etc. (June qtr 92)	6.9	4.8	6.4	2.9	3.1	0.7	3.8	21.2	5.9

^{*} Seasonally adjusted except for NT and ACT. [†] Seasonally adjusted except for Tas., NT and ACT.

Key national indicators – consolidated to 22 December 1992

	Period	Latest figure available		Percentage change (a) on		
		Original	Seasonally adjusted	Previous period	Corresponding period last year	
National production						
Gross domestic product (A) — 1984-85 prices	\$m Sept. qtr 92	n.a.	65,307	0.5	2.1	
Industrial activity						
New capital expenditure — current prices	\$m Sept. qtr 92	5,610	5,717	1.8	-11.1	
— 1984-85 prices	"	4,468	4,557	1.2	-9.0	
Expected new capital expenditure	" Six months to June 93	10,535	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	
Retail turnover — current prices	" Oct. 92	8,254	8,095	2.0	4.3	
— 1984-85 prices	" Sept. qtr 92	15,153	15,673	-0.3	1.7	
New motor vehicle registrations	no. Nov. 92	44,553	45,707	4.1	8.6	
Dwelling unit approvals	" Oct. 92	14,392	13,950	5.5	16.2	
Value of all building approvals	\$m	2,126	1,995	8.7	8.2	
Value of total building work done — current prices	" June qtr 92	5,778	5,795	-0.4	-8.8	
— 1984-85 prices	"	3,754	3,765	-0.3	-6.8	
Manufacturers' sales — current prices	" Sept. qtr 92	36,051	35,099	0.8	1.3	
— 1984-85 prices	"	24,649	24,034	-0.1	-0.2	
Expected manufacturers' sales	" Six months to Dec. 92	40,787	n.a.	n.a.	11.5	
Labour						
Employed persons	'000 Nov. 92	7,656.6	7,636.1	-1.0	-0.2	
Unemployment rate †	%	10.5	11.4	0.1	0.9	
Participation rate †	"	62.1	62.6	-0.6	-0.4	
Job vacancies	'000 Aug. 92	28.0	27.5	10.9	9.6	
Average weekly overtime per employee	hours	1.07	1.11	0.9	0.0	
Prices, profits and wages						
Consumer price index	1989-90 = 100.0 Sept. qtr 92	107.4	n.a.	0.1		
Price index of materials used in manufacturing industries	1984-85 = 100.0 Oct. 92	127.8	n.a.	0.7		
Price index of articles produced by manufacturing industry	1988-89 = 100.0 Oct. 92	114.1	n.a.	0.1		
Company profits before income tax	\$m Sept. qtr 92	4,153	4,077	25.6		
Average weekly earnings (Full-time adults; ordinary time)	\$ Aug. 92	585.80	n.a.	-0.3		
Interest rates (b) (monthly average)						
90-day bank bills †	% per annum Oct. 92	5.85	n.a.	-0.10		
10-year Treasury bonds †	"	8.85	n.a.	-0.10		
Balance of payments						
Exports of merchandise	\$m Oct. 92	4,832	4,683	-10.6	4.4	
Imports of merchandise	"	-5,347	-4,989	-4.2	20.3	
Balance on merchandise trade (c)	"	-315	-306	n.a.	n.a.	
Balance of goods and services (c)	"	-826	-516	n.a.	n.a.	
Balance on current account (c)	"	-2,037	-1,800	18.9	99.1	
Terms of trade (d)	1984-85 = 100.0 Sept. qtr 92	n.a.	98.5	-1.2	-5.7	
Foreign investment						
Net foreign debt	\$m 30 Sept. 92	162,841	n.a.	8.6	18.0	
Net foreign liabilities	"	209,173	n.a.	5.2	12.4	
Exchange rates (monthly average)						
US\$	per SA Oct. 92	0.7158	n.a.	-0.9	-9.8	
Trade weighted index	May 1970 = 100.0	52.7	n.a.	0.0	-12.5	
Other indicators						
Population (resident at end of qtr)	million June 92	17.5	n.a.	0.2	1.4	
Overseas visitor arrivals	'000 Oct. 92	229	222	2.1	6.4	

(a) Based on seasonally adjusted figures where available. (b) Source: Reserve Bank of Australia. (c) For percentage changes, a minus sign indicates an increase in the deficit; no sign means a decrease in the deficit or an increase in the surplus. (d) The ratio of the price of goods and services for exports to that for imports.

NOTES: † = change is shown in terms of percentage points. n.a. = not available.

Figures have been taken from a variety of ABS publications. Copies may be obtained from Information Services (see page 10).

Some of the figures shown are preliminary, some final, and some are revisions of previously published figures. Users should check the latest relevant publication or with the ABS Information Services if the status of the statistic is important.

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